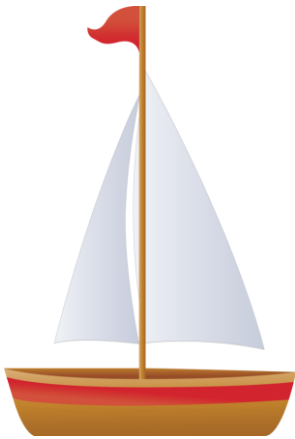


## Who invented more? The Greeks or the Chinese?

Many people dispute over who invented more – the Ancient Greeks or the Chinese. Both civilizations had spectacular scientific breakthroughs, magnificent mathematical advancements and ingenious inventions that we still use today. However, who do you think

invented more? Here is a guide to a few of these ancient civilizations' inventions.



First of all, the Ancient Greeks. What did they invent? To start with, clocks.

The Greeks invented multiple ways of

telling time, such as the water clock that used water as a way of telling time. In addition, they invented the first ever alarm clock and some useful tools invented and advanced on by

Archimedes. One of his own inventions was the screw, used to

get water out of ship, another is the lever, upon which he placed the law of the lever and stated that if he had a long enough lever, he could move the Earth, which is surprisingly true! Other Greek inventions include water mills (which involves the wheel – another invention advanced upon by Archimedes) and the odometer, which also involves the wheel and was a quick and easy way that Greeks measured distance.

But if the Greeks invented all of these things, then what of the Chinese? Surely they can't have invented as much as the Greeks did. As a matter of fact, the Chinese can easily match the prowess of the Greeks and are far superior to nearly all other ancient civilizations. In fact, the majority of Chinese inventions are still used today!

Take paper, for example. In England today, paper is

being mass-produced on a drastic scale. In reality, however, paper was only

introduced to England in around 1300AD, compared to it being introduced to most

Asian civilizations much earlier in around 0AD, and it being invented by the Chinese

back in 202BC. Therefore, it took around 1,500 years to reach England! So other than paper, (and toilet paper!) what did the Chinese invent? They invented number

systems such as abacuses, (still vaguely used today) Chinese counting rods (an early way of easily counting using rods) and none other than the much loved compass.

Without the compass, Columbus wouldn't have been able to sail the world, Leif

Erikson wouldn't have discovered America and Captain James Cook would've got lost on his voyage to Australia, which goes to show how vital these Chinese inventions



really were.

Then again, the Greeks did have a major role in circumnavigation too, in fact, they discovered cartography. In addition, Eratosthenes map of the known world (spanning from Ireland to China) was the first of its kind to contain lines of latitude and longitude (he also calculated the accurate size of the Earth even though 2/3 of it was yet to be discovered. Some of their great architectural designs also required a great understanding of length, width and height, including The Colossus (See Edward Lewis's Greek project) – which was originally 70 cubits (33 metres) high and used building techniques very similar to the statue of Liberty 2 millennia later!

On the other hand, the Chinese made many wondrous monuments too, including the Terracotta Army, which depicts the armies of Qin Shi Huang (the first Chinese Emperor) using tonnes of terracotta to create approximately 8,000 soldiers, 670 horses and 130 chariots. Of course, the Great Wall of China is another architectural masterpiece, spanning across the entire Chinese border and being 21,196 km long (13, 171 miles!) In fact, if you straighten it out, it would span about 7/8 of the way across the Earth (From about Cornwall past Beijing to Ottawa!)

Events wise, though, the Greeks are far superior to all ancient civilizations, modern ones too. If you ever wonder who invented theatre or where the Olympics began, look no further than Ancient Greece. Even the most spectacular of ancient civilizations have a soft spot, and some even have a funny bone. Yes, you guessed it, the Greeks invented comedy! Many festivals took place in Ancient Greece, including the Festival of Zeus, which celebrated the mighty Zeus (God of the Sky); the Panathenaea – possibly the most important of all Ancient Greek festivals and the lesser known Lenaia, which involved dramatic competition.

Hold on, though, what about the Chinese? Surely they had many festivals that took place. Of course they do, but I wouldn't say that they had as many as the Greeks. However, the Chinese may not have had as many festivals as the Greeks, but their festivals sure were amazing! Take the Chinese New Year. Such an incredible event, with fireworks exploding across China; dragons bringing dazzling colours to the ground and an altogether exciting atmosphere. As a matter of fact, the Chinese invented fireworks, and made humongous explosions centuries before WW1, even before the Battle of Hastings (1066!)

There you have it. I've told you all you need to know about these breathtakingly

advanced ancient civilizations and all their awe-inspiring inventions, but who do you think deserves to be known as the better civilization? In my opinion, I think that you would be spoilt for choice. Personally, though, I think that both deserve to be remembered throughout history and neither should be ranked above the other. Therefore, I leave you with this statement – never underestimate the abilities of ancient civilizations.

By Edward

